

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. APPM/006877/PPC/CMP/CKIM

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated February 10, 2006, having a one month extended statutory period for response set to expire on June 12, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

As an initial matter, Examiner Michael P. Alexander is thanked for granting a telephone interview that occurred on June 8, 2006. During the interview conducted June 8, 2006, proposed claims amendments were discussed.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-19 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled by Applicants. Claims 1, 2 and 5-19 stand rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of now canceled claim 4. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claim as amended is entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. By the above amendment, claim 3 is canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-13 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,911,619 to *Uzoh et al (Uzoh)* on grounds that *Uzoh* discloses pulsing the first potential with a waveform. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Uzoh does not teach, show, or suggest the first positive potential to be a pulsed potential with a waveform as asserted by the Examiner because *Uzoh* decreases the applied current as the thickness of the layer decreases. Material will be removed immediately upon the start of the process in *Uzoh*. Therefore, the first positive potential in *Uzoh* is applied for only an instant in time and the potential would continually decrease as the thickness continually decreases. Because the potential decreases as thickness decreases, the first positive potential of *Uzoh* is not a first potential with a

Page 5

473985_2

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. APPM/006877/PPC/CMP/CKIM

waveform. Therefore, *Uzoh*, alone or in combination, does not teach, show or suggest applying the first positive potential as a pulsed potential with a waveform, as recited in claim 1, and claims dependent thereon. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants further traverse the rejection of dependent claims 2, 5-9, 11-13, and 15-18 on grounds that they depend from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Uzoh* as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of *Bard et al* (Electrochemical Methods). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 14 depends from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable, as noted above. Because claim 1 is believed to be allowable, it is believed that claim 14 should be allowable as well. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

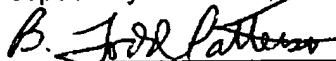
Claims 10 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Uzoh* as applied to claim 1 above. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 10 and 19 depend from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable, as noted above. Because claim 1 is believed to be allowable as indicated above, it is believed that claims 10 and 19 should be allowable as well. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



B. Todd Patterson
Registration No. 37,906
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants

Page 6

473985_2